REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested. By this amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 6-8, added claims 15-17, and canceled claim 5. Claims 1-4 and 6-16 are now pending in the application.

On page 2 of the Office Action (paragraph 2), the drawings are objected to because Figure 3 has the block element representing a computer system mislabeled. Filed herewith is a Replacement Drawing Sheet that corrects the labeling of the computer system from "204" to –202--. Applicant requests approval of the Replacement Sheet in the next formal Patent Office communication.

Also, on page 2 of the Office Action (paragraph 3), the specification is objected to for containing minor informalities. By the foregoing amendment, these informalities, and others detected during review of the application, have been addressed. Specifically, the Office Action indicated that the acronym "EAI" was not properly defined in the specification. In response thereto, Applicant has amended the specification to indicate that "EAI" is an abbreviation for "enterprise application integration." Additionally, Applicant has provided, in an Information Disclosure Statement filed herewith, an article indicting that EAI is a well known acronym. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection.

On page 3 of the Office Action, claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, fist paragraph, as failing to properly comply with the enablement requirement. Applicant has amended claim 6 to recite "Uniform Modeling Language" which has support in the specification on page 2, line 17 for example. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

In the non-final Office Action, dated July 10, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5 and 7-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by BARKLEY (U.S. Patent No. 6,088,679) and rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over BARKLEY in view of GLEBOV et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,343,265). In view of the amendments provided above and comments below, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections.

BARKLEY discloses workflow management employing role based access control (RBAC). As indicated in the Background of the Invention section, BARKLEY notes that a business process involves the transfer of one or more documents, information or tasks between participants according to a set of procedural rules in order to achieve business goals (see column 1, lines 23-26). BARKLEY uses this definition to take preexisting practices

within a business and attempts automates them indicating that "the program 'knows' the proper sequence and approvals involved..." BARKLEY attempts to improve upon this basic automated system by employing the RBAC system to define membership of individuals in groups. Roles are activated within a workflow sequence and access to the task at hand is predicated upon whether an individual is listed in a group to perform the task. Any individual associated with the role can perform the required task. Furthermore, as indicated by BARKLEY, this enables individual role membership to be reassigned without affecting the process as a whole (Abstract).

In contrast, however, the present invention solves an entirely different problem, as evidenced by the amended claims. Specifically, exemplary embodiments of the present invention provide for the successful merger of automated model driven business processes and human activities. As discussed on page 2 of the present specification, business process modeling systems have adopted model driven approaches to customize and describe behavior. Business process modeling is a formal definition of a business process in a high-level graphical modeling language such as (UML) uniform modeling language representing executable code for effecting the business process. The present invention describes and provides examples of how human based functions are assimilated into a business process model system.

For example, newly added claim 16, describing a method for creating a business process model, is directed to this distinction not present in BARKLEY. The BARKLEY patent, on the other hand, is merely directed to the automated tracking of human based tasks. Applicants respectfully submit that BARKLEY does not capture the ability to co-mingle automated business process models and human-based activities, as currently set forth in claim 15.

Additionally, newly added claim 17, is directed to a method of providing an automated business process model in combination with human based events. As discussed above with respect to newly added independent claim 16, the BARKLEY is merely directed to the tracking of only human based tasks. Applicants again submit that BARKLEY does not capture the ability to co-mingle automated business process models and human-based activities, as currently set forth in the claims. Support for newly added claims 15-17 can be found, for example, on page 17, lines 26-30, on pages 8-10 of the specification.

Various other aspects of the present invention also differ from BARKLEY. For example, amended independent claim 1, is directed to a method for creating a business process model, the method comprising the steps of defining an activity state, the activity state corresponding to a human-based or manual step, identifying one or more performers for the

activity state and designating the activity state as reassignable to indicate that the activity may be moved between performers. Applicants respectfully submit that BARKLEY does not disclose or suggest this combination of features.

For example, regarding claim 1, BARKLEY does not disclose or suggest designating the activity state as reassignable to indicate that the activity state may be moved between performers as now recited in independent claim 1. As indicated on page In rejecting that feature (previously recited in canceled claim 5), the Examiner relied on column 7, lines 66 through column 8, lines 13, of BARKLEY for allegedly disclosing this feature (Office Action, pg. 4). While these sections of BARKLEY appear to disclose the ability to assign permission to perform an activity to one or more members of a project team, Applicant can find no disclosure of designating the activity state as reassignable to indicate that the activity state may be moved between performers, as set forth in independent claim 1. This feature gives an individual performer the ability to re-assign the activity to another performer. This has a particular advantage in that ownership of a task is changed and provides for a unique ability of the system to be adaptable to various external events. Applicant respectfully submits that BARKLEY's ability to assign a task to a group of people is not equivalent to reassigning an assignment after it is given. In fact, BARKLEY's ability to assign a task to a group does not provide the same advantages accorded the present invention. Instead of merely assigning one task to a group and awaiting a response from one member, the present invention allows for a pinpoint to be placed on a individual who is responsible to perform the task but has the adaptability to allow more versatility. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that BARKLEY does not teach or suggest all of the features of independent claim 1.

Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1. Applicant, therefore, submits that these claims are patentable over BARKLEY for at least the reasons given above with respect to claim 1 as well as the features recited therein for reasons of their own.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over BARKLEY in view of GLEBOV. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 6 is now allowable for at least the reasons described above with regard to claim 1. Applicant submits that GLEBOV is directed to the employment of the Universal Modeling Language for mapping objects defined in a design model (Abstract). Applicant respectfully submits that GLEBOV does not solve the deficiencies of BARKLEY with regard to independent claim 1. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

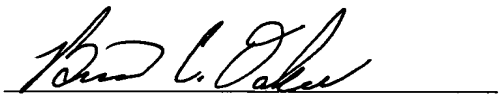
Independent claim 7 is directed to a method for providing a business process management system, the method comprising the steps of receiving an event, causing a business process object to transition to an activity state corresponding to the event,

identifying one or more performers for the activity state; creating a task for each performer, and waiting for each task to be completed within an allotted time period. BARKLEY fails to discloses or suggest waiting for each task to be completed within an allotted time period, as now set forth in independent claim 7. Additionally, it appears that BARKLEY has contemplated no time limitation at all. In fact, it appears that BARKLEY provides the ability to have other individuals perform the function, rather than have the function performed within an allotted period of time. As indicated in column 9, line 8-11, BARKLEY indicates that roles are deactivated as segments are completed. Thus, Applicant submits that BARKLEY actually teaches away from the use of an allotted time period. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that BARKLEY does not teach or suggest all of the features of independent claim 7.

Claims 8-14 depend from claim 7. Applicant, therefore, submits that these claims are patentable over BARKLEY for at least the reasons given above with respect to claim 1 as well as the features recited therein for reasons of their own.

While the present application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, should the Examiner find some issue to remain unresolved, or should any new issues arise which could be eliminated through discussions with Applicants' representative, then the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone in order that the further prosecution of this application can thereby be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,



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